

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 4, 2004

IN RE:

CENTURYTEL OF CLAIBORNE, INC. PETITION FOR
SUSPENSION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT
NUMBER PORTABILITY

)
)
)
)
)
)

DOCKET NO.
03-00610

ORDER ACCEPTING WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION

This matter came before Chairman Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on February 9, 2004, for consideration of the request of CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc. ("CenturyTel" or the "Company") to withdraw its *Petition for Suspension of the Federal Communications Commission Requirement to Implement Number Portability* ("Petition").

BACKGROUND

On November 10, 2003, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") issued its *Memorandum Opinion and Order* in CC Docket No. 95-116, regarding wireline-to-wireless number portability. The FCC *Order* concludes that, as of November 24, 2003, local exchange carriers providing service within the Nation's 100 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas ("MSAs") must port numbers to wireless carriers where the requesting wireless carrier's "coverage area" overlaps the geographic location of the rate center in which the customer's wireline number is provisioned. On November 21, 2003, CenturyTel filed its *Petition* with the Authority requesting a suspension and waiver of this decision, stating that it is technically infeasible for the Company to comply with the FCC *Order* by November 24, 2003.

The panel first considered CenturyTel's *Petition* during the January 5, 2004 Authority Conference. At that time the Directors questioned CenturyTel's counsel regarding factors preventing CenturyTel from complying in a timely manner with the FCC *Order*. The panel determined that CenturyTel should file a statement no later than January 20, 2004 providing more detailed information regarding the type of harm that CenturyTel would sustain in the event the *Petition* is not approved.

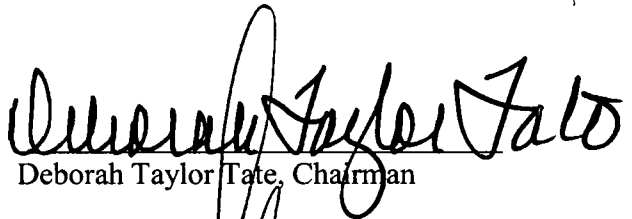
On January 16, 2004, the FCC released an Order in the docket, *In the Matter of Telephone Number Portability*, CC Docket No. 95116. The FCC determined in that Order to waive the Local Number Portability requirement for small rural carriers serving within the top 100 MSAs, such as CenturyTel, until May 24, 2004. Thereafter, on January 20, 2004 CenturyTel filed its request to withdraw the *Petition*.

FEBRUARY 9, 2004 AUTHORITY CONFERENCE

The panel considered CenturyTel's request during the February 9, 2004 Conference. Noting the FCC's Order of January 16, 2004, the panel voted unanimously to accept CenturyTel's withdrawal of the *Petition*.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

CenturyTel's request to withdraw the *Petition for Suspension of the Federal Communications Commission Requirement to Implement Number Portability* in its entirety is approved, and this docket is closed.


Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman


Pat Miller, Director


Sara Kyle, Director